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Wednesday, February 22, 2017 www.metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE

Meet the new head of Philly's LGBT Affairs Office. 4



So many margaritas,
so little time. 18-19

The rebirth of Passyunk Square. 20-21

SPRING IN THEIR STEP



The Phillies start playing spring training games this weekend. Here's what you need to know when spring unofficially arrives in Clearwater. 24



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'DREAMER' MIGRANTS TO BE SAFE FROM TRUMP

I President Donald Trump's administration plans to consider almost all illegal immigrants subject to deportation, but will leave protections in place for immigrants known as "dreamers" who entered the country illegally as children, according to official guidelines released. The Department of Homeland Security guidance to immigration agents is part of a broader plan for border security



and immigration enforcement in executive orders that Trump signed on Jan. 25. Former President Barack Obama issued an executive order in 2012 that protected 750,000 immigrants who had been brought into the United States illegally by their parents. Trump has said the issue is "very difficult" for him. **REUTERS**

CONDEMNATION OF ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS

2 President Donald Trump delivered his first public condemnation of anti-Semitic incidents in the United States after a new spate of bomb threats to Jewish community centers around the country and vandalism in a Jewish cemetery. Several of the centers were evacuated for a time on Monday after receiving the threats, the JCC Association of North America said, and another center was evacuated on Tuesday

morning in San Diego, California, according to police. Also, vandals toppled about 170 headstones at the Chesed Shel Emeth Society cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri, over the weekend. "The anti-Semitic threats targeting our Jewish community and community centers are horrible and are painful and a very sad reminder of the work that still must be done to root out hate and prejudice and evil," Trump told reporters. **REUTERS**

EDITOR QUILTS AFTER CHILD SEX REMARKS

3 Provocative far-right commentator Milo Yiannopoulos resigned on Tuesday as an editor of the Breitbart News website after he was vilified and lost a book deal over old comments that condoned at least some intimate relations between men and young teenage boys. Yiannopoulos thanked the site for letting him transmit conservative and libertarian ideas to an audience that otherwise would



never have heard them, but said he did not want his "poor choice of words" to detract from his colleagues' important work. "This is my decision alone," he told a news conference in New York city. "When your friends have done right by you, you do right by them. For me, now, that means stepping aside." **REUTERS**

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

CARNIVAL IN FRANCE

5 A dancer performs during the 133rd edition of the Nice Carnival in Nice, France, on Tuesday. **GETTY IMAGES**

CIA-BACKED AID FOR SYRIAN REBELS FROZEN

4 CIA-coordinated military aid for rebels in northwest Syria has been frozen since they came under major Islamist attack last month, rebel sources said, raising doubts about foreign support key to their war against President Bashar al-Assad. Rebel officials said that no official explanation had been given for the move this month following the jihadist assault, though several said they believed

the main objective was to prevent arms and cash falling into Islamist militant hands. But they said they expected the aid freeze to be temporary. The halt in assistance, which has included salaries, training, ammunition and in some cases guided anti-tank missiles, is a response to jihadist attacks and has nothing to do with President Donald Trump replacing Barack Obama, two officials familiar with the CIA-led program said. **REUTERS**

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KIMBERLY AQUILINA, WEB REPORTER

Hey, ladies and the men who love them but hate how "distracted" women get during that time of the month. A chiropractor from Kansas has patented what he calls the solution: vag glue. Read more at metro.us/viral.

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Taking charge of LGBT affairs

Metro Philadelphia recently spoke with Amber Hikes, who will become the new executive director of the city's Office of LGBT Affairs.



A.D. AMOROSI
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When the mayor's office announced that Amber Hikes, a black queer woman, would take the reins as the new executive director of the Office of LGBT Affairs, a collective sigh could be heard throughout gay Philadelphia. The office's first director, Nellie Fitzpatrick, resigned in the wake of accusations that she lacked forcefulness in dealing with racism within the gay community. Hikes comes with a dream résumé: fundraising for the Attic Youth Center, serving as a board member at the William Way LGBT Community Center and directing the Philadelphia Dyke March. She is leaving her position as director of Upward Bound Director at California State University Long Beach to begin her new job on March 6.

What do you think of Ms. Fitzpatrick or the job she did?

I know Nellie and consider her a friend. I heard all about the issues, the meetings the protests and the boycotts when I was in



I have a social working background, and what is best about that is that I am really great at listening.

Amber Hikes

Amber Hikes, the new executive director of the Office of LGBT Affairs. PROVIDED

California. Look, Nellie got to this position — a new one at that — at a challenging time. Many things exploded while she was in office; things that quite frankly, caught all of us off guard. She has done a lot for the LGBT

community, and I, for one, am grateful for her leadership.

Were you surprised how quickly and forcefully black and brown LGBT Philly went into action in response to the reported racist ac-

tions of the ICandy bar and its owner?

I was surprised, not by the quickness of black and brown LGBT Philly, but rather, how many allies the movement and the protest had; how much they knew and were angered

about issues people of color were experiencing in the Gayborhood. Without naming names, I was saddened too by some of the gas-lighting that was going on; people denying that racist things were happening because "that's never

been my experience." That's not how racism works.

What's your take on Mayor Jim Kenney? He was praised for creating the Office of LGBT Affairs post, yet criticized for being slow to racial issues affecting the LGBT community.

I think highly of him and endorsed him when he ran for mayor. He's been an ally to the LGBT community for God knows how long. He talks the talk and walks the walk. I wish I could always work with someone who puts himself on the front line as he does; not just for LGBT issues but immigration, education, pot legislation. He gets it. The recent racial issues confronting the LGBT community knocked us all for a loop. I'm inspired by how he and his teams address issues and push solutions forward.

You're clearly familiar with LGBT issues in Philadelphia, but are you ready to jump back in to that which you left?

I never really left it all, and what is fortunate about having those Philly roots is that I have those connections; that my hands will happily be in those pies and if I need advice and favors — or have to give advice and do favors — I can. I have a social working background, and what is best about that is that I am really great at listening.

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Report: Philadelphia has world-class traffic congestion

Traffic jams in Philadelphia could be worse — after all, the city ranked as just the 17th most-congested municipality in the nation, according to a new report.

INRIX, a firm that analyzes transportation data looked at 240 cities in the U.S. for its recently published "Global Traffic Scorecard."

Philly motorists spent 38 hours in traffic gridlock last year, the analysts found. Those wasted



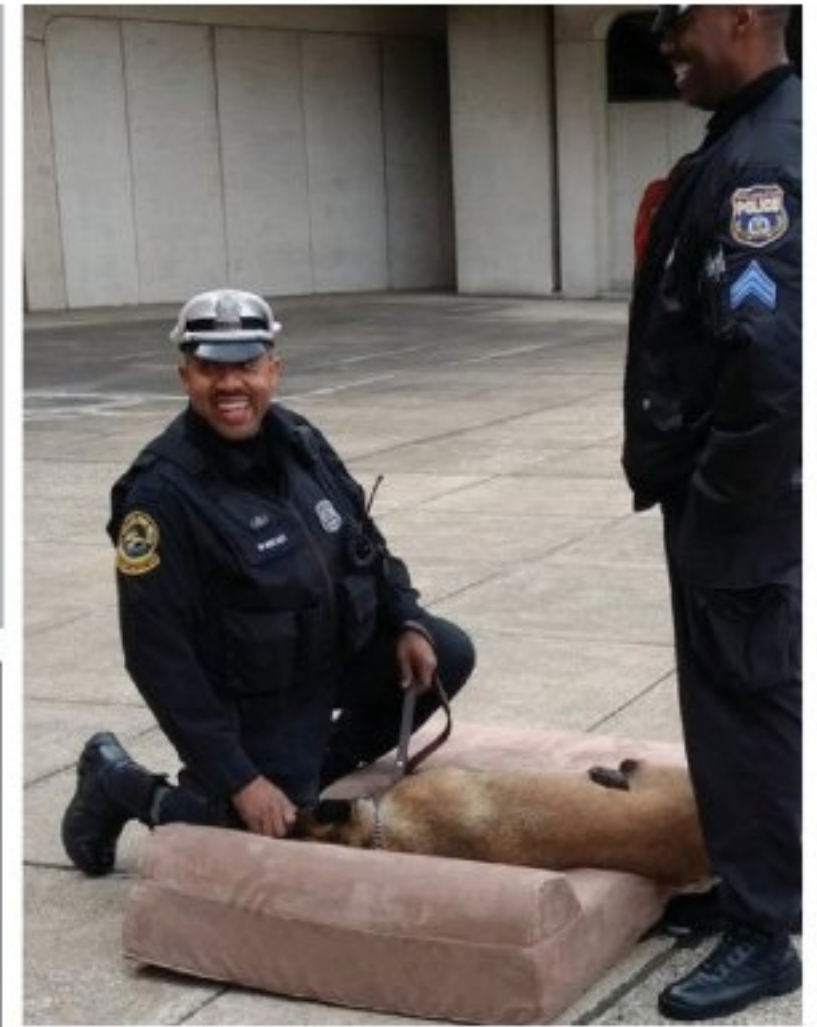
GETTY IMAGES

hours cost each unfortunate driver \$1,236 that year.

The city's traffic score actually improved from a global perspective. Philadelphia ranked 52nd in traffic congestion among the 1,064 cities in 38 countries that are included in the scorecard. It ranked 71st the previous year.

Los Angeles was declared the most congested city in the nation by the analysts. Drivers there spent 104 hours locked in traffic, according to INRIX.

GARY KANE



A Philadelphia police K-9 dog tried out the Big Barker orthopedic bed donated to the department. **PHO**

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Philly police K-9 dogs will rest easy in new donated beds

"They do so much for us in the community and they never ask for anything in return," said Eric Shannon, who owns Big Barker beds.



SAM NEWHOUSE
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The bravest dogs in Philadelphia will be getting a more restful and supportive night's sleep after one very appreciative local company donated new orthopedic beds to the police department's K-9 unit.

"They have a different life than a normal dog," said Eric Shannon, owner of Philly-based company Big Barker, which sells supportive beds for big dogs. The K-9 unit dogs are "out on patrol all day, they're hunting down criminals, they're searching for explosives, weapons, drugs, and spending their entire lives keeping our communities safe," he said.

That's why Shannon donated a new batch of

supportive orthopedic beds to the city's four-legged police force.

Forty-two K-9s got the new beds, which retail for over \$200 apiece.

These beds are specifically tailored for big dogs, which are more likely to develop joint problems ranging from canine arthritis to degenerative joint disease, or complications from earlier injuries, Shannon said. Orthopedic beds give dogs extra comfort over regular beds by conforming to their unique weight and the shape of their body.

"They really are heroes," Shannon said during a news conference Tuesday to announce the gift. "They do so much for us in the community and they never ask for anything in return."

Philly Police Commissioner Richard Ross said he hoped the new beds would help the specially-trained canines stay healthy longer.

"They do work very hard each and every day," Ross said. "They do a fantastic job."

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TransferWise launches international money transfers via Facebook

Money transfer company TransferWise has launched a service that allows users to send money internationally through Facebook's chat application.

The London-based startup said Tuesday that it had developed a Facebook Messenger "chatbot," or

an automated program that can help users communicate with businesses and carry out tasks such as online purchases.

TransferWise's chatbot enables customers to send money to friends and family to and from the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia and Europe from

Facebook Messenger. It can also be used to set up exchange-rate alerts.

Facebook already allows its users to send money domestically in the United States via its Messenger app, but has not yet launched similar services internationally. TransferWise said its

service will be the first to enable international money transfers entirely within Messenger.

Facebook opened up its Messenger app to developers to create chatbots in April in a bid to expand its reach in customer service and enterprise transactions. **REUTERS**

UPS tests drone deliveries, eyes future price changes



UPS has tested drones before and is considering other uses for the technology, such as in inventory. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION, GETTY IMAGES

No timeline for when technology might be put into wider use, partly because federal authorities are still developing regulations.

United Parcel Service said it will consider raising prices across the board in coming years to offset pressure on margins, particularly from the rising costs of delivering packages to e-commerce customers.

"We ... always have to be diligent about getting the right return," particularly as costs rise, Richard Peretz, the company's chief financial officer, said at an investor event.

His comments came a day after the company tested home delivery by drone in Lithia, Florida, the first step in what it hopes will be more automated — and cheaper — deliveries in rural areas.

UPS is grappling with lower margins for e-commerce, which have dented earnings. Businesses typically get more packages per stop than residences, making delivery to individual homes more expensive.

Drones could be one way to reduce those costs.

In Monday's test, a drone launched from the roof of a UPS vehicle flew autonomously toward its destination, dropped a package and then re-

turned to the vehicle as the driver continued on a delivery route.

"We see this as an exploration into this new technology," John Dodero, vice president of industrial engineering at UPS, said ahead of the test.

The company is also considering how changes in global trade, particularly with Mexico, will impact its business as U.S. President Donald Trump vows to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, which took effect in 1994.

The U.S.-Mexico supply chain is "critical," said David Abney, the company's chief executive. NAFTA "is a little bit old. It's not reflective of 21st-century agreements," he said.

But Abney added that the company believes "global trade certainly drives jobs, and we think that southern border is important to our customers and to the country."

The company said it will expand U.S. pickup and delivery to six days for ground shipments and offer Saturday delivery in the largest metropolitan areas. **REUTERS**

"We see this as an exploration into this new technology."

Dodero



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- have a friend or loved one that is able to take part in the study with them.

The ITI-007-201 Agitation Study will last for up to 8 weeks. It will involve several visits to the study center and two phone calls. Participants will need to have a study partner (a friend or a loved one) take part in the study with them. All study-related medications and assessments will be provided at no cost.

It is hoped that the information gathered during the ITI-007-201 Agitation Study may help us to improve treatment options for people with dementia or AD symptoms in the future.

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Trump's new security adviser differs from him on Russia, other key issues

White House press secretary Sean Spicer said on Tuesday that Trump told McMaster "he's got full authority to structure the national security team the way he wants."

President Donald Trump has shown little patience for dissent, but that trait is likely to be tested by his new national security adviser, Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster.

McMaster is joining the White House staff with views on Russia, counterterrorism, strengthening the military and other major security issues that diverge not only from those of the Trump loyalists, but also from those the president himself has ex-

pressed.

A military intellectual whose ideas have been shaped more by experience than by emotion, more by practice than by politics, and more by intellect than by impulse may also find himself in political terrain that may be as alien, and perhaps as hostile, to him as the sands and cities of Afghanistan and Iraq were.

McMaster will not be alone, however. His prominent administration allies include Defense Secretary Jim Mattis; Marine General Joseph Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Senator John McCain, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee; as well as many of the soldiers who have served with him.

Trump already has taken the unusual step



President Donald Trump and Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster as his national security adviser at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida. GETTY IMAGES

of adding Steve Bannon, his chief strategic adviser known for right-wing ideological views, to the White House National Security Council.

"The real potential for flashpoints is with some

of the people that Steve Bannon has brought into the administration ... people who see things very ideologically," said Andrew Exum, a former Army officer and Defense Department Mideast pol-

icy official and McMaster friend for more than a decade.

Trump's early missteps on immigration and other issues "have strengthened the leverage available to not only H.R. McMaster, but also Defense Secretary Mattis and Secretary (of State Rex) Tillerson potentially," Exum said.

One of the first tests of McMaster's influence will be the administration's review of U.S. policy in Syria, and more broadly against Islamic militancy. The review's results are due early next week, Pentagon officials said on Tuesday.

Bannon said last June that the United States and its European allies are fighting a "global existential war" against Islam.

McMaster's approach to defeating Sunni Mus-

lim militants has been more nuanced, resting largely on separating extremists from the vast majority of the local population. As commander of the Army's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, then-Colonel McMaster prepared his troops for retaking the city of Tal Afar on the Iraqi-Syrian border in 2005 by having some of them dress in traditional Arab dishdashas, recruiting Arab-Americans to play the part of locals, and teaching his troops how to determine if a household was Sunni or Shiite by looking at the pictures hung on the walls. McMaster ordered his soldiers never to call the Iraqis they encountered "hajjis," which many Americans used as a derogatory term for the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca. REUTERS

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Verizon, Yahoo agree to lowered \$4.48B deal

Verizon Communications Inc. said it would buy Yahoo Inc.'s core business for \$4.48 billion, lowering its original offer by \$350 million in the wake of two massive cyberattacks at the internet company.

The closing of the deal, which was announced in July, had been delayed as the companies assessed the fallout from two data breaches that Yahoo disclosed last year.

The No. 1 U.S. wireless carrier had been trying to persuade Yahoo to amend the terms of the agreement following the attacks. As part of the revised deal, Yahoo and Verizon will share some liabilities arising from the hacks.

The deal brings to Verizon more than 1 billion Yahoo users and a wealth of data it can use to offer more targeted advertising. Verizon will combine Yahoo's advertising



technology tools as well as its search, email and messenger assets with its AOL unit, purchased for \$4.4 billion in 2015.

The revised agreement comes as Verizon and its main rival, AT&T Inc., try to find new ways to grow in an oversaturated market for wireless services. AT&T has proposed an \$85.4 billion takeover of Time Warner Inc. to boost its content offerings to subscribers. Time Warner is the parent of cable channels HBO and CNN, as well as film studio Warner Bros.

The combined Yahoo

and AOL businesses will help diversify Verizon away from its core wireless business, wrote Jennifer Fritzsche, an analyst at Wells Fargo, but "we would note its digital media and advertising business would still be a small percentage of revenues."

Verizon's shares rose 0.5 percent to \$49.42 in Tuesday morning trading, while Yahoo's shares were up 0.3 percent at \$45.22.

Verizon and Yahoo said they expect the deal to close in the second quarter.

Under the amended terms, Yahoo and Verizon will split cash liabilities related to some government investigations and third-party litigation related to the breaches.

Yahoo, however, will continue to be responsible for liabilities from shareholder lawsuits and SEC investigations. REUTERS



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US Homeland Security employees locked out of computer networks



Some U.S. Department of Homeland Security employees in the Washington area and Philadelphia were unable to access some agency computer networks on Tuesday, according to three sources familiar with the matter.

It was not immediately clear how widespread the issue was or how significantly it affected daily functions at DHS, a large government agency whose responsibilities include immigration services, border security and cyber defense.

Employees began experiencing problems logging into networks at 5 a.m. ET on Tuesday due to a problem related to domain controllers, or servers that process authentication requests, which could not validate personal identity verification (PIV) cards

used by federal workers and contractors to access certain information systems, one source said.

At least four U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services facilities in the Washington area and one in Philadelphia were affected, the source said, but some employees were able to access systems through a virtual private network. It was not clear if other branches of DHS were affected.

The source characterized the issue as one stemming from relatively benign information technology missteps and a failure to ensure network redundancy. There was no evidence of foul play, the source said, adding that it appeared the domain controller credentials had expired on Monday when offices were closed for the

federal Presidents Day holiday.

DHS did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

President Donald Trump vowed to make cybersecurity a priority during his administration, following an election marred by hacks of Democratic Party emails that U.S. intelligence agencies concluded were carried out by Russia in order to help Trump, a Republican, win. At a White House event last month he said he would "hold my Cabinet secretaries and agency heads accountable, totally accountable, for the cybersecurity of their organizations."

Trump had planned to sign a cybersecurity executive order last month but it was put on hold to allow more time for review. **REUTERS**

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Sources: Facebook in talks to live-stream one MLB game per week

Facebook Inc. is in talks with Major League Baseball to live-stream one game per week during the upcoming season, which could be a key win as the social media platform works to offer more live sports, according to two people familiar with the situation.

Facebook has pushed to sign deals with owners of sports rights to live stream their games, going after an audience that competitor Twitter Inc. is also trying to capture, according to sports media consultants.

For social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter, live-streaming sports is key to attracting people since sports is one of the few types of content that people still watch live.

"Facebook is aggres-

sively going after sports content and they are now one of a number of competitors to traditional media outlets that are going after sports programming," said sports media consultant Lee Berke. "It makes perfect sense that they would be going after name brand properties like the MLB."

The companies were in advanced talks, according to one source. It was unclear which games MLB would live-stream on Facebook. A representative for Facebook and MLB declined to comment.

The size of Facebook's reach was a big reason Univision Communications Inc decided to use Facebook Live to live stream Mexican soccer matches in English, said Tonia O'Connor, chief



By partnering with Facebook, MLB would get access to a young audience at a massive scale. GETTY IMAGES

commercial officer and president of content distribution at Univision.

Under that deal, Facebook will live-stream 46 matches by Mexican soccer league Liga MX in 2017. Terms were not disclosed.

Over the past few months, Facebook has live-streamed global basketball and soccer matches and table tennis.

REUTERS

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Gross: Johnny Depp is creeping on Daisy Ridley



Johnny Depp, a melted pile of gel eyeliner with a crippling scarf addiction, has found his newest would-be fountain of youth. According to Celebitchy, the 53-year-old has his eye on co-star Daisy Ridley, 24. Which makes sense, because it's looking more and more like he dates young women to suck the life out of them in order to prolong his own. A

source on set of "Murder on the Orient Express" says that Depp has developed a crush, and it is definitely not mutual. "Daisy's in a tough spot. She clearly thinks the world of Johnny as an actor, but simply isn't interested in pursuing a romance with him," says the spy. "He isn't accustomed to being turned down, especially by a younger actress.

Johnny's convinced that if he cleans up his act, Daisy might change her mind." Exsqueeze me? It is far too late for Depp to clean up his act. He's been a hot mess for a long time now, and there's truly no turning back. Better luck next time, Edward Scissorhands.

Angelina Jolie doing damage control?

Angelina Jolie is making the rounds in support of her newest film, "First They Killed My Father," and because promoting a film is a dirty, dirty business, she's conveniently opening up about her messy-ass divorce from Brad Pitt.

On "Good Morning America," the 41-year-old just happened to dish on all things Brangelina. According to Perez Hilton, she said,

"We are focusing on the health of our family. So we will be stronger when we come out of this, because that's what we're determined to do as a family. We will always be a family."

Mmmhmm. Please note, she told BBC World News the same thing, saying, "We are a family,

and we will always be a family, and we will get through this time, and hopefully be a stronger family for it." It's almost like she's reading from a script! Jolie — who has famously never had a publicist — has reportedly been discreetly seeking one and hoping for an image overhaul. Because really, this whole thing has made both parties look pretty bad. So, yeah. Damage control.



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

the word

RACHAEL CLEMMONS
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Lindsay Lohan claims she was racially profiled



It seems like just yesterday we were talking about another ridiculous thing Lindsay Lohan had done — oh wait, that was yesterday. The "Mean Girls" star is

at it again, and this time she's telling us about the time she, a white woman, was racially profiled. On "Good Morning Britain," the 30-year-old told Piers Morgan she was traveling from London to New York after meeting BFF President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Turkey. Then, while at Heathrow Airport, according to Vulture, she said, "[British Airport Security] opened my passport and saw 'Lindsay Lohan' and started

immediately apologizing, but then said, 'Please take off your headscarf.' And I did, it's OK." Oh, honey. That's not how racial profiling works. Maybe you meant something else? The actress also opened up about how the experience made her consider what it might be like to be a nonwhite woman, and her confusing relationship with the Quran.

Hoda Kotb — yes, of the day-drinking Kathie Lee and Hoda pair — has adopted a baby girl. Her name is Haley Joy, and I'm very committed to what I said earlier: Babies are very in this year. The 52-year-old broke the news on Instagram, simply writing "My girl #haleyjoy." She preceded the

Hoda adopts a baby girl



announcement by clogging her Instagram with inspi-

rational quotes, so we should have known a baby announcement or a break up announcement or a plea to play a Disney princess was coming our way. If only we'd read the signs! According to E! News, Kotb has been dating financier Joel Schiffman for several years.

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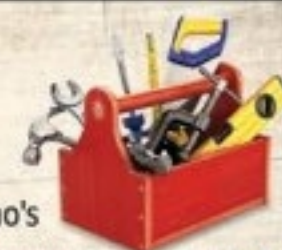
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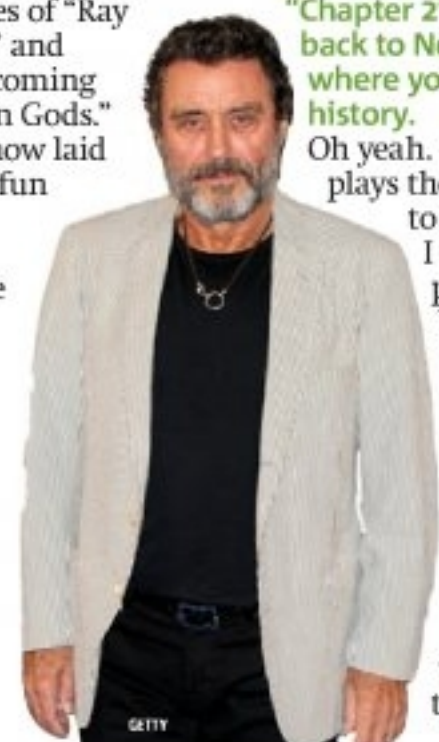
The real Ian McShane isn't that scary

The former (and possibly future) Al Swearengen talks "John Wick" and being nice (to us).



MATT PRIGGE
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It's not hard to get Ian McShane to do a movie. It just has to be the right circumstances. When the legendary actor was making "John Wick" back in 2013, the producers asked him if he'd come back for a sequel. "I said, 'New York, two weeks in December? I'll be there, thank you!'" he recalls. The last decade has seen a run of small, fun roles, on top of longer stretches in the likes of "Ray Donovan" and the forthcoming "American Gods." It shows how laid back and fun the real McShane is — more the light-hearted antique dealer of "Lovejoy" than swearsy Al Swearengen on "Deadwood,"



Ian McShane reprises his role as Winston, caretaker of the assassins-only hotel The Continental, in "John Wick: Chapter 2." NIKO TAVERNISE

which still has a chance of coming back.

"Chapter 2" brings you back to New York, where you've had a history.

Oh yeah. I've done plays there. I go back to 1967, when I did my first play in New York. I saw "Hair" there. It was always a magic place.

Any misadventures?
Yeah, but none I can talk about at the moment.

[Laughs] That was in my pre-sober days. I've got marvelous memories since 1988, and fantastic memories pre-1988. But those aren't for publication, thank you.

I have to say, the first time I saw you was in "Sexy Beast," from 2000. Great movie.

I like that my introduction to you was as a terrifying gangster who can freeze the blood with a cold stare. This was before "Deadwood," but up till then you were largely known for the very nice, if rogueish, Lovejoy. It seems like "Sexy Beast" was your entree into playing dark and scary.

Well, I had six years of the show, which was very successful. But after that you have to stay away from TV for a while. When it finished, I didn't want to spend the rest of my life on television. So I did a couple plays and just stayed out of it for a few years.

"Lovejoy" isn't as well known in America as in Britain. Are Americans shocked that you can play bubbly?

We've all got previous lives. Acting is the only business where, the older you get, the parts get better, the pay gets better. Anywhere else you'd be kicked to the scrap heap years ago.

Are people scared of you? You do seem very nice and conversational.

Well, I don't tell them that. I'm only being nice to you, kid. But you never know what people are going to mention. They'll mention "Battle of Britain"

Taking it easy

McShane is 74, meaning, unlike Keanu Reeves, he doesn't have to do much physical work in the new "John Wick." Besides, he's done his share. His career goes back to the 1960s, and he's done scores of stunts in movies like "Villain," with Richard Burton, and "Sitting Target," with Oliver Reed. He even stretched his legs a bit on "Deadwood" from time to time.

He does remember having a big fight with Andy Samberg in 2007's "Hot Rod." But now he's good. "You reach a certain age and you're like, 'I'm happy watching Keanu doing all that, thank you very much,'" McShane tells us.

or "Lovejoy" or things I did in the '60s, '70s. I get "If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Belgium." You never know what they're going to say.

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Even Lucius Malfoy sometimes feels insecure



In "A Cure for Wellness," Jason Isaacs plays Dr. Heinrich Volmer, the head of a creepy European spa who might be doing something dastardly with his patients. TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

Isaacs is in New York to talk about "A Cure for Wellness," a creepy, crazy (and very long) horror film. He's the villain: a doctor at a dilapidated spa tucked away in the Swiss Alps who may be doing something evil to his guests.

Most actors who tend to play villains say they never look at them as villainous.

Sometimes I'm asked the question — it doesn't bother me, but I think it's reductive — which is, "Do you like playing good guys or bad guys?" It's true that sometimes there are characters written one way or the other, but I steer hundreds of miles away from them. If I don't believe the person thinks they're absolutely right, then I'll look terrible as an actor.

So you have Lucius Malfoy, who is just a dyed-in-the-wool racist and eugenicist, or the guy in "A Cure for Wellness," who has complete self-belief that the project he's on is worthwhile. Those characters, they're not easy to play, but they're easier than characters who are two-dimensional and written so the audience boos. Because the audience does boo." The audience sees through a transparent attempt to make you dislike them.

It's an important reminder

Getting creeped out

One draw of "A Cure for Wellness" must have been shooting in that strange place in Europe. The actor's life must always feel surreal, but especially with this one. The odd thing I didn't expect was that I would be so creeped out — not by the scenes, but where we shot. We shot in maybe the worst, most disturbing place I've ever been in my life. It was this place called Beelitz-Heilstatten, which is a compound

of buildings where Hitler rehabbed after the first World War, after his injury. All Nazi soldiers went there to recuperate from injuries. Then the Russians took over, and they used the place to give people lobotomies and shock treatments, basically turn them into zombies. Subsequently there were loads of terrible things that happened there, like mass murders. There was a murder there just a few years before; they blamed the building. It's the most haunted building in Germany, maybe in Europe. I couldn't wait to get out of there.

that everyone, even terrible human beings, think they're right.

There's some terrible people in the world. Depending on your politics, you might think there's a terrible man sitting in the White

House now.

But anybody you pick, any of your bogey-

men, if you sat them down and interviewed them, they could absolutely rationalize and justify what they're doing, morally and ethically or strategically. Those are the kinds of parts I want to play, simply because then I don't look crap.

It's really fascinating to get into those kinds of head spaces.

I've no idea why I started doing this, but I think there's a real curiosity about what people think, what motivates them, all the things they're not saying. I always felt as a kid — and I still often feel as an adult — that I somehow missed the memo where everyone had life explained to them. That's why they sit so comfortable in their own skin. Because I don't. I'm on a quest to find what makes other people so sure of themselves.

Actor Jason Isaacs talks "A Cure for Wellness" and getting to play confident people.



MATT PRIGGE
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The man who plays Lucius Malfoy isn't, predictably, very Lucius Malfoy-y. Jason Isaacs has played scores of menacing baddies, and not just in the "Harry Potter" movies. He's possibly sinister in the Netflix series "The OA,"

but we don't want to spoil anything. But in person, he's friendly and gabby. He even admits to feeling uncomfortable in his own skin. This, from a man whose performances have haunted a generation of Potter-heads.

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Bordered by Broad and Sixth streets, Tasker and Washington, the neighborhood of Passyunk Square is, by turns, old fashioned and trendy.

Once upon a time, East Passyunk Avenue, which bisects the neighborhood diagonally, felt a lot like a small-town Main Street. It was a place where mom and pop businesses — selling everything from headstones to school uniforms — catered to mostly Italian-American neighbors.

Depending on who you ask, Passyunk might mean "land below the hills" or "a place of sleep" in the Native American Lenape language. And by the 1980s, Passyunk Square itself had begun to feel a little sleepy, its shops and restaurants, many of which had been in families for generations, seemingly stuck in a midcentury time warp.

In recent years, however, Passyunk Square has reinvented itself. The arrival first of immigrants from Mexico and Southeast Asia, and then millennials who appreciated the nostalgic feel of the

avenue, breathed new life into the area. Bryan Capone, associate broker with the Capone For Your Home Team at Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, Fox & Roach Realtors, calls it a place where old-timers and newcomers mix and "everybody co-exists."

With new residents came an influx of businesses, which seemed to pop up overnight. Corner stores and bodegas were joined by trendy shops selling artisanal gelato and vintage clothing. The Passyunk Avenue Revitalization Corporation (PARC) implemented a program of neighborhood upgrades, such as greening initiatives and the refurbishment of the Singing Fountain. Suddenly, sleepy Passyunk Square was red hot.

Perhaps what now defines the neighborhood most is its emergence as a magnet for Philly's most talented chefs. Townsend, Le Virtu and Will are just a handful of East Passyunk restaurants that routinely top "best of" lists. The 2017 nominations for the prestigious James Beard Awards gave

nods to Nick Elmi of Laurel (Best Chef: Mid-Atlantic) and Malaysian newcomer Sate Kampar (Best New Restaurant).

It would be a mistake, however, to overlook old-school favorites such as Marra's and Francolui's for pizza and pasta, and Ippolito's, which Capone calls one of the best fish-

nearly all the residential property in Passyunk Square tend to be on the smaller side and often require updates to satisfy modern tastes. But that translates into opportunities for first-time buyers, as many houses can be found for under \$200,000.

The median sale price for a two-bedroom house is \$305,000, well below other trendy Philly neighborhoods. Rentals are comprised largely of single-family homes or mixed-use duplex and triplex properties, with the median monthly rental coming in around \$1,600.

Capone, who lived in the neighborhood from 2005 to 2014, has seen blocks gentrify as buyers have rehabbed and flipped houses. There was never much vacant land, he says, so there's not much new construction, but the borders of the neighborhood have expanded. He also notes that, with younger residents having families, parents have gotten involved to improve local schools, such as Andrew Jackson Elementary School. For anyone looking for an affordable, walkable, vibrant place to live within easy reach of Center City, Passyunk Square is as good as it gets.



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ON THE MARKET



1221 Emily St. PROVIDED

For sale

1221 Emily St.
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This renovated townhouse is chic

and sophisticated, boasting up-graded custom designer finishes and an open-concept floor plan, all bathed in natural light from a central skylight. The kitchen offers upgraded stainless appli-

ances, including an in-cabinet drawer microwave, French-door refrigerator and designer range hood. Upstairs are two generous bedrooms — the master features a custom walk-in closet — and master bath with European soaking tub. The fully finished basement offers additional living space, a separate laundry nook and utility closet. A private rear yard and outstanding location makes this a perfect spot to enjoy city living.
Contact: Steven Savitz, owner, SRS Real Estate, 215-561-0900, steven@srsgrups.com

For rent

1634 S. 9th St.
\$1,300/month
1 bed, 1 bath
This modern third-floor apartment is located just blocks from bustling East Passyunk Avenue. A large living room/kitchen combo features a skylight, hardwood floors, granite counters, stainless steel appliances and plenty of cabinet space. Highlights include a large bedroom with exposed brick walls and a marble bath. This move-in ready apartment comes partially furnished with an Italian leather sofa and chair



1634 S. Ninth St. PROVIDED

(and optional bar stools). There's also a new 42-inch Samsung HD TV already installed on the living room wall. The unit is cable/internet ready and includes a

video intercom system. No pets and no smokers.
Contact: Michael Giordano, 215-451-7610, michaelg1016@aol.com

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Garage

For real local flavor, grab some friends and stop by Garage. Housed in the former Satellite Auto Body, this mostly can-only joint — they have 300 varieties of beer and cider — is a no-frills place to shoot pool, play pinball and even try your hand at boardwalk favorite, Skee-Ball. There's an onsite food cart welcoming a rotating roster of chefs, sometimes from featured



Bing Bing

breweries. And the BYO food policy encourages customer to sample South Philly's finest cheesesteaks — Pat's and Geno's are right across the street.
1231 E. Passyunk Ave. garagephilly.com

Bing Bing Dim Sum

If you're after authentic Asian cuisine, look elsewhere, say Bing Bing Dim Sum's owners,

whose deeply personal cooking is "often informed by tradition, but it's never defined by it." But if you want a creative take on Asian favorites — try the South Philly accented roast pork bao with sharp provolone, long hots and spinach — Bing Bing has you covered. Slide into a comfy booth or take a sidewalk seat for a front-row view of the daily Passyunk passeggiata.
1648 E. Passyunk Ave. bingbingdimsum.com

NEW IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Columbus Square

Columbus Square Park at 12th and Wharton is getting a \$3 million facelift and a new name: Columbus Square. Following input from neighbors, a community task force and the Department of Parks and Recreation, construction will begin this year to revamp the park for broader community use. There will still be athletic fields, but these will be joined by an expanded dog park with larger runs and antibacterial grass, and gathering places like the new community lawn along Reed Street and a patio along 13th. A new pathway system will connect the features and allow access from all corners.

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Inside Look: Rooftop luxury in Fairmount for \$450K



2012 Spring Garden St. ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF ZILLOW

Your weekly dose of
#RealEstatePorn



I know, Punxsutawney Phil told us we'd have six more weeks of winter. But with all the "alternative facts" we've been hearing

in the last month, who's to say that furry prognosticator isn't taking his cues from a certain White House aide?

It's not even March 1, but I'm willing to bet the gorgeous weather we saw this weekend is only going to continue. To celebrate our collective coat-hat-scarves-and-boots

shedding, we're giving an inside look at two more homes with sweet rooftop decks.

2012 Spring Garden St.
\$449,900

This Fairmount spot just screams cool. The one-bedroom luxury penthouse apartment with an expansive private rooftop deck is the top spot for hosting weekday happy hours and weekend brunches, with easy access to the neighborhood's best restaurants and nightlife.

Not your college one-bedroom, 2012 Spring Garden features a stunning kitchen outfitted with striking black counters and cabinets and high-end stainless steel

appliances and a master bedroom with plenty of closet space and a second private rooftop deck area.

2310 Naudain St.
\$1.1 million

Just steps from Rittenhouse Square and Graduate Hospital, this three-bedroom, three-and-a-half bathroom home boasts of 360-degree views of the Center City skyline.

As a new construction, this home also features tons of modern amenities: high-end appliances from Sub Zero and Wolf in the gourmet kitchen; luxurious master and ensuite baths; custom-build wardrobe cabinetry; and maple hardwood floors.



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Former GM Hinkie's legacy continues to unfold before Sixers' fans eyes

The former GM's shrewd dealings with Sacramento have positioned the Sixers masterfully.

JEFF MCMENAMIN
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Sam Hinkie's impact on the Sixers is still creating a buzz in the NBA circles, long after he stepped down (or was pushed out) as Sixers general manager last April.

One of Hinkie's final deals as general manager was trading the rights to Arturas Gudaitis and Luka Mitrovic to the Kings in return for an unprotected 2019 first-round pick, Nik Stauskas, Carl Landry, Jason Thompson and the right to swap first-round selections in the 2016 and 2017 drafts.

With DeMarcus Cous-

ins now on the move to the New Orleans Pelicans, the Kings, who currently have the 11th-worst record in the league at 24-33, just got significantly worse and are likely going to lose a lot more games as the season wears on. The Sixers sit just 2.5 games behind the Kings with the fifth-worst record in the league at 21-35.

Amazingly, it looks at the moment like the most impactful trade the Sixers will benefit from at the trade deadline comes at the hands of Hinkie once again, due to his forethought with the pick swap. Meanwhile, current general manager Bryan Colangelo's approval rating has plummeted as the Sixers have been unable to make a deal for trade chips such as Jahlil Okafor, Nerlens Noel and Ersan Ilyasova.

Okafor, on the trading block for what seems like since his debut in Philadelphia, was rumored to be attached to a deal with the Pelicans before the Cousins trade came to fruition, but what would have been netted by the Sixers was significantly less. The Kings were able to land Tyreke Evans, Buddy Hield, Langston Galloway and the Pelicans' unprotected first- and second-round picks in 2017 in exchange for Cousins and Omri Casspi. The offer to the Sixers was reportedly just Evans and a top-20 protected first rounder in 2017 in exchange for Okafor.

ESPN's Marc Stein told "Mike & Mike in the Morning" on Monday that he thinks there's still a few suitors left who have interest in Okafor.

"I've heard that Boston has still given that



Sam Hinkie has put the Sixers in pretty good shape after a few recent developments across the NBA. GETTY IMAGES

some consideration," Stein said. "Chicago is another team that's said to have shown some Okafor interest. You can rest assured Philly's going to spend the next three-plus days trying to find a trade home for Jahlil Okafor."

ESPN's Ramona Shel-

burne reported on Tuesday that the Pacers may have interest in acquiring the big man as well.

But, with the trade deadline quickly approaching on Thursday at 3 p.m., Colangelo has little time left to make a deal. Hinkie made the trade deadline an art

form, positioning the Sixers toward future success that now seems imminent for the organization. Not doing anything will be looked at as a failure by Colangelo, and Hinkie's shadow will only grow larger over the man who took his seat.

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Is this the year J.P. Crawford finally plays his way into Citizens Bank Park? GETTY IMAGES

Storylines to watch when Phillies start spring games

We've got questions; the Phillies (hopefully) will provide answers over the next month.

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The Phillies have been working out for about a week in Clearwater and begin their slate of spring training games this weekend with a game against the Yankees on Friday in Tampa kicking off the Grapefruit League. Here are five storylines to be mindful of as March arrives:

1 Will any star prospects make the team?

Phillies fans have been pining for the likes of J.P. Crawford along with a handful of other highly-touted prospects to get their call to the big leagues. Crawford, who is now the sixth-highest-graded prospect by MLB.com, batted just .244 with 30 RBIs and 40 runs in 385 at-bats with Lehigh Valley last season and has seen his name cool off just a bit around the national pundits. That being said, he's knocking on the doorstep of the big leagues but he's destined to start in Triple-A. Outfielders Nick Williams and Roman Quinn had a chance to sneak onto the roster had it not been for the signing of Michael Saunders. For now, it looks like the young guys will all start at Lehigh Valley.

2 Another year, another battle for the ninth

It wouldn't be spring if the Phillies didn't have an assortment

of arms vying for the role of closer. Jeanmar Gomez all but had the spot locked up with his nine straight saves to begin last season and the eventual 19 saves to one blown save he had going to June 7. He blew five more saves from that point on, opening up another competition heading into the spring with newly-signed Joaquin Benoit and Hector Neris. All three have strong cases to be made, although Benoit is most likely suited as the eighth inning man having just one year of being a closer where he had 24 saves in 2013 with Detroit. Neris had troubles in the ninth last year with four blown saves and fared much better as a set-up man.

3 Matt Stairs' impact on the young hitters

This may be the biggest question mark surrounding this team: How will the first-year hitting coach fare in his adjustment from television analyst to instructor? He seems pretty confident in himself after spending a season from up above watching his would-be students and their swings. Manager Pete Mackanin stressed during his final news conference before heading to Clearwater that he wants his team to focus more on driving the ball the other way. Is Stairs, who was known as a pull hitter during his playing career, the best man for this job? Only time will tell.

4 Franco and Herrera ready to take the next step

If there's one thing

that's certain, it's that the Phillies are extremely optimistic about what's to come for their two biggest stars. Mackanin praised Maikel Franco pretty heavily before heading off to spring training, believing he has all the makings of a superstar and someone who can drive in 100-plus runs. The same goes for Odubel Herrera, who was rewarded with a five-year, \$30.5 million contract last December as a result of his All-Star season. It's no secret that these two players have bright futures ahead of them, but is this the year where they both break out onto the national scene as two of the best young players in the game? If they do, this Phillies team could turn a few heads.

5 What to expect of the batting order

Remember last April when the Phillies had Cedric Hunter in the opening day lineup? This year's lineup should fare much better as the team sought more balance and bigger bats to add to the order. That's where the additions of Howie Kendrick and Saunders come into play. Both guys will assume roles in the top five or six of the order, most likely, along with Herrera, Franco, Tommy Joseph and Cesar Hernandez. That's a pretty respectable top half of the order. Toss in a reliable and clutch bat like Cameron Rupp in the seven spot, and guys like Aaron Altherr and either Andrew Knapp or Jorge Alfaro off the bench, and this team should score more runs than they have the past two seasons.

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Across

- 1 Post ender
- 6 Viscous substance
- 10 Madame Bovary
- 14 Forest quaker
- 15 Freedom org.
- 16 Kind of roast
- 17 Wiped out
- 18 Cato's highway
- 19 Rock-music genre
- 20 Shogun's yes
- 21 As it should be (3 wds.)
- 24 Soft sweaters
- 26 Sudden silences
- 27 TV knob
- 28 Madrid art gallery
- 30 Lays asphalt
- 33 -- Jaw, Sask.
- 34 Consumer org.
- 37 Sheik colleague
- 38 -- Carlo
- 39 Feast with poi
- 40 Beat the field
- 41 Voting districts
- 42 Rumbled
- 43 Crowd features
- 44 Underwater shocker
- 45 Dismay
- 48 Purple martin
- 52 Hard-to-chew sweets (2 wds.)
- 55 RN's group
- 56 Indigo dye
- 57 Plains state

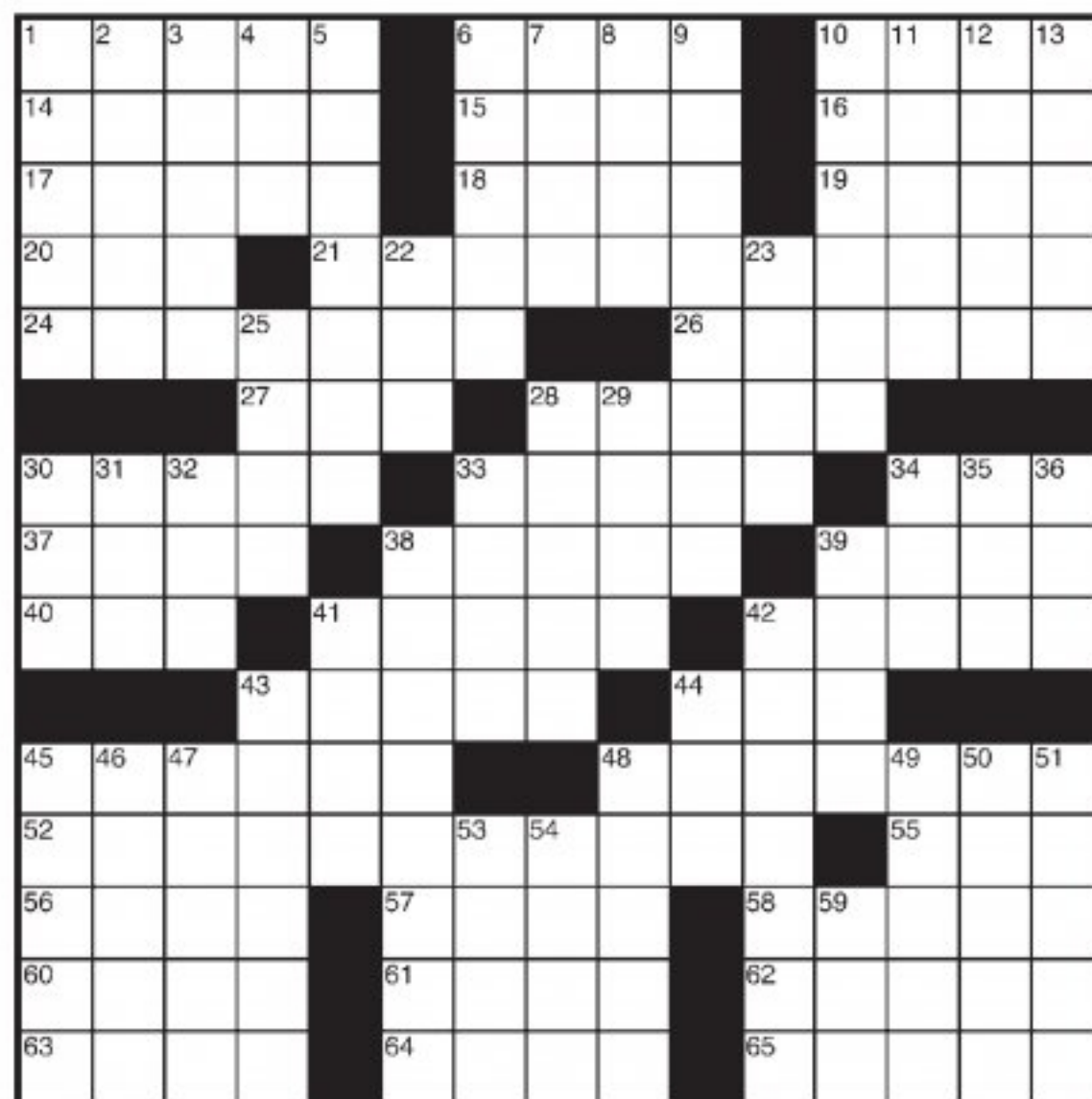
- 58 Genuine
- 60 Agreeable
- 61 Proofer's word
- 62 Choose
- 63 Scored well
- 64 Jekyll's other half
- 65 Names on pedigrees

Down

- 1 Yoga type
- 2 Like pagodas
- 3 Leaf of grass
- 4 PGA peg
- 5 Motorcycle races
- 6 Trot and canter
- 7 VIII, to Virgil
- 8 Cheers for toreros
- 9 Acquisition

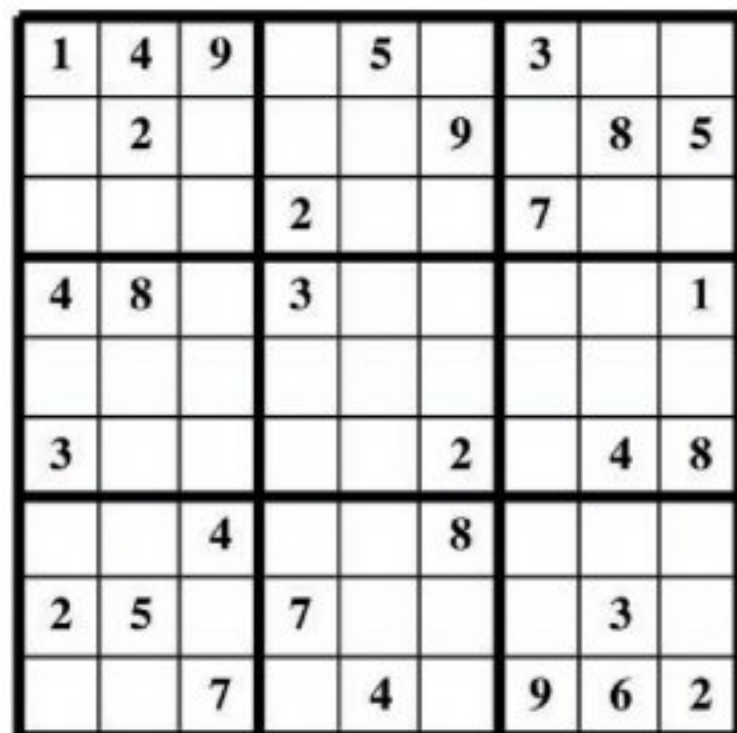
- 10 Marty Robbins hit (2 wds.)
- 11 River terminus
- 12 Chop fine
- 13 Pharaohs' amulets
- 22 Boon companion
- 23 Gruff
- 25 In charge of
- 28 Between puddles and lakes
- 29 Turns to compost
- 30 Amen corner
- 31 --, amas, amat
- 32 Coq au --
- 33 Supplemental
- 34 Route follower
- 35 Univ. degrees
- 36 Terrific bargain
- 38 Archibald of verse
- 39 Break in the action
- 41 House part
- 42 Mumps companion
- 43 Storied
- 44 Wool supplier
- 45 Fridge maker
- 46 Take fright
- 47 Haggling point
- 48 Kind of board
- 49 Light beer
- 50 In the bag (2 wds.)
- 51 Power units
- 53 Lauder rival
- 54 Impressed
- 59 Yale athlete

metro.us/crossword

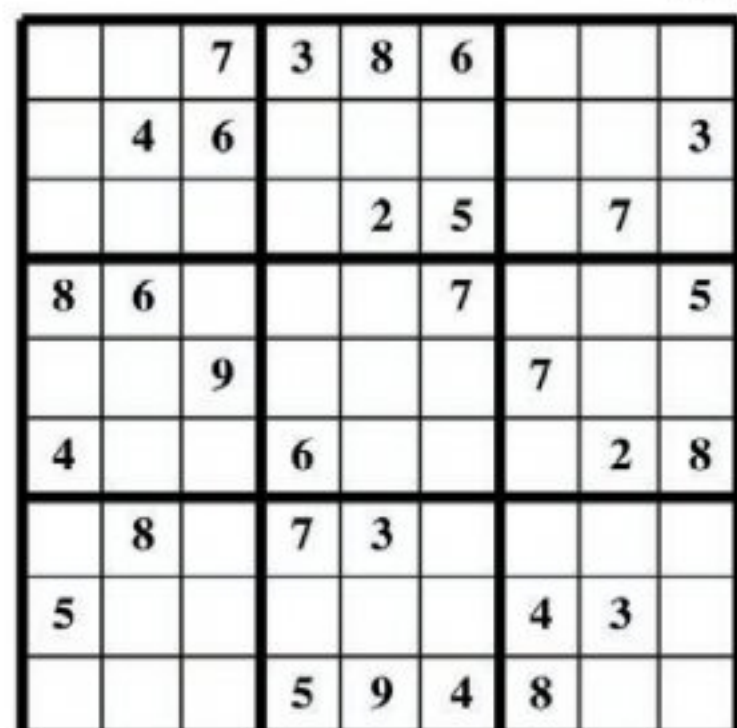


metro.us/sudoku

easy



hard



metro.us/horoscopes



Aries Question your motives if someone tries to block your achievements. Clear up any misunderstanding before you assume a position that requires transparency.



Taurus Getting along with your peers will be in your best interest. If you call upon people you have worked with in the past, you'll be given inside information that will help you.



Gemini Your ability to express what you want to see happen will encourage others to help you make your plan a success. A chance encounter will result in a great opportunity.



Cancer Educate yourself and work hard to achieve your goals. Seek advice from experienced pros, but don't be afraid to put your own spin on things. Trust in your ability.



Leo Traveling, learning and interacting with interesting people will encourage you to make lifestyle changes. Physical action will bring positive results.



Virgo Make affordable plans with children, family or a loved one. Living within your means will help you enjoy the day instead of adding to your stress.



Libra Trouble will surface when dealing with domestic or relationship matters. Be willing to compromise and discuss concerns openly. Strive for equality and peace of mind.



Scorpio Be careful what you share with your peers. Someone will use personal information against you to deter your progress. Don't overreact to someone's argument.



Sagittarius Personal improvements will lead to unexpected gains. Refuse to let an emotional incident cost you. Keep your mind on the facts and move forward.



Capricorn An emotional situation will escalate into an unsavory encounter if you get involved with people who don't share your values or beliefs. Proceed with caution.



Aquarius Bring about positive change. Altering your appearance or methods will make others take notice. Follow through with your plans if you want to prosper.



Pisces You need to be the one to decide what's best for yourself. Look over personal paperwork to find information that will help you make better choices. **EUGENIA LAST**

Yesterday's answers



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- 18-55 years old

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